

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE**

**CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

**USE EXCLUSION**

(Acre)

**CODE 472**

**DEFINITION**

Excluding animals, people, or vehicles from an area

**PURPOSES**

To protect, maintain, or improve the quantity and quality of the plant, animal, soil, air, water, and aesthetics resources and human health and safety.

**CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES**

In areas where vegetative establishment and maintenance, soil condition, water or air quality, wildlife, or aesthetic values are in need of protection. This practice is also applicable in areas where human and animal health and safety hazards are present.

**CRITERIA**

***Criteria Applicable to all Purposes:***

Barriers must be adequate to prevent use by targeted vehicles, animals, or people.

Barrier life expectancy must be adequate for the intended purpose.

Timing and exclusion periods must be described to accomplish intended purposes.

***Criteria Applicable to Livestock Exclusion:***

Fencing is the usual method of excluding livestock. See Conservation Practice Standard, Fence – 382 for details of constructing fences.

1. Permanent exclusion of domesticated livestock will generally be required for the following conditions:

a. Livestock should be excluded from crop fields during the growing season of the desired crops.

b. A Filter Strip or Riparian Forest Buffer planted along streams to protect water quality. See Conservation Practice Standards, Filter Strip – 393 and Riparian Forest Buffer – 391 for details.

c. Timber managed for hardwood production where hardwood seedlings and saplings can be damaged by browsing animals.

d. All areas where severe erosion is occurring or has the potential to occur. Exclusion is essential on all areas where plantings are made for erosion control.

e. Wildlife plantings. Individual plantings should be fenced to exclude domestic livestock and any areas managed exclusively for wildlife.

f. Areas used for recreation and/or esthetics if the presence of livestock has the potential to interfere with recreation or damage the esthetics of the area.

1. Other conditions where livestock exclusion should apply as a part of a prescribed grazing system include:

a. Wetland areas that have permanent water or are flooded for several weeks during the year.

b. Farm ponds. Livestock watering facility and other practices in addition to fencing may be needed.

c. Where streams have been identified as polluted with high counts of fecal coliform bacteria.

2. Exclusion of livestock shall be required for the specified period for the following conditions:

a. Pine Plantings – at least until second growing season. Light or moderate grazing is acceptable. Goats and sheep should be

excluded from pine plantings until the trees are 6 to 8 feet in height.

- b. Critical Area Treatment – 2 years from the date of establishment or until vegetation becomes well established.
- c. Other areas where ground cover is not adequate to protect soil erosion within acceptable limits – time may vary from a minimum of one year to several years.

### **CONSIDERATIONS**

All areas should consider existing or potential liability to the planning agency or the land-user based on safety, health, and public relations.

Barriers may consist of both natural and artificial structures such as logs, vegetation, earth fill, boulders, fences, gates, or signs.

If installation or maintenance of the practice has potential of affecting cultural resources (Archaeological, historic, historic landscape, or traditional cultural properties), follow Alabama's state policy for considering cultural resources.

### **PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS**

Specifications for applying this practice shall be prepared for each site and recorded using approved specification sheets, guide sheets, and

narrative statements in the conservation plan, or other acceptable documentation.

### **OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**

Barriers shall be periodically inspected and remedial repairs shall be performed as needed.

### **REFERENCES**

NRCS Conservation Practice Standards:

- Fence – 382
- Filter Strip – 393
- Forage Harvest Management – 511
- Pipeline – 516
- Pond – 378
- Prescribed Grazing – 528A
- Riparian Forest Buffer – 391
- Stream Crossing – 728
- Trough or Tank – 614